

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-4, 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bell (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,781 A). Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell in view of Gibbs *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,935 B1). Claims 1-4, 7 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 5, 6 and 8-11 are allowed. Applicants submit the following arguments in traversal of the rejections

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 7 and 12 Under § 112

Applicant has amended claims 1-4, 7, and 12 and the changes are believed to obviate the Examiner's rejection of the claims under § 112.

Rejection of Claims 13-16 Under § 112

Applicant has amended claim 13 to obviate the Examiner's rejection of the claim. No new matter is added.

Rejection of Claim 13 Under § 102(e) Over Bell

Applicant submits that claim 13 is believed to be patentable because Bell fails to disclose:

(b) establishing a second point-to-point connection by one of the first digital device and the second digital device to another of the first digital device and the second digital device, *when the connection-establishing device is not determined as being the first digital device or the second digital device.*

In the Office Action, the Examiner withdrew the previous rejection of the claims as being anticipated by Bell because Bell “does not disclose checking whether or not the digital device (i.e., the first device 310), which manages the point-to-point connection, is not the other digital device to be connected by the original/first point-to-point connection.” Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 13 is believed to be patentable.

Rejection of Claims 14-16 Under § 103(a)

Applicant submits that claims 14-16, which depend from claim 13, are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 13.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Seok-Won Stuart Lee*

*Granted limited recognition under
37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b), as shown in a copy of
the same filed on February 13, 2004, at the
U.S.P.T.O.



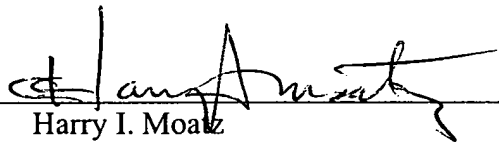
**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT AND DISCIPLINE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

LIMITED RECOGNITION UNDER 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

Seok-Won Lee is hereby given limited recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b) as an employee of the Sughrue Mion, PLLC law firm to prepare and prosecute patent applications wherein the patent applicant is the client of the Sughrue Mion, PLLC law firm, and the attorney or agent of record in the applications is a registered practitioner who is a member of the Sughrue Mion, PLLC law firm. This limited recognition shall expire on the date appearing below, or when whichever of the following events first occurs prior to the date appearing below: (i) Seok-Won Lee ceases to lawfully reside in the United States, (ii) Seok-Won Lee's employment with the Sughrue Mion, PLLC law firm ceases or is terminated, or (iii) Seok-Won Lee ceases to remain or reside in the United States on an H1B visa.

This document constitutes proof of such recognition. The original of this document is on file in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Expires: December 22, 2004



Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline

RECEIVED

AUG 31 2004

Technology Center 2600